ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Shelby Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Union Church, at Helena, Shelby County, Alabama,

SEPTEMBER 10-12, 1881.

OFFICERS:

ELDER T. P. HOLCOMBE, *Moderator*.

ELDER C. W. O'HARA, *Secretary*.

The next Session will be held with Mt Calvary Church, 11 miles north of Columbiana, commencing on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in October, 1882.

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1881.

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Shelby Missionary Baptist Association.

On Saturday, the 10th day of September, 1881, the Association convened with Union Church, at Helena, Alabama.

Introductory sermon was preached by Elder I. U. Wilkes, from St. John, ninth chapter, 4th verse.

At 2 o'clock, the delegates assembled, and were called to order by the former moderator, Elder T. P. Holcombe.

Prayer by Elder James Grimes.

Elders James Grimes and J. L. West were requested to read.

Letters from the Churches were received, read, and the names of the delegates enrolled.

Cahaba Valley Church—Thomas M. Fancher and Jasper Rerbo.

Dogwood Grove—E. Lovelady, James McGaugh and Wm. Walker.

Montevallo—I. U. Wilkes,* J. C. McElroy, Henry H. Lyman and R. W. Nolen.

Mars Hill—R. B. Hall* and G. W. Sorrell.

New Antioch—Isaac Griffin.

Union—H. W. Bowers, Wm. Lucus and Geo. T. Lee.*

Columbiana—E. B. Teague*, Haywood Lawrence and W. G. Parker.

Friendship—C. W. O'Hara*, M. E. B. Jones and W. F. Bridges.

Hopewell—Levi Phillips.

Mt. Calvary—W. W. Armstrong,* John Moore, Nathaniel Thomas and S. M. Robinson.

Liberty—T. P. Holcombe*, J. W. Dodson, James D. Martin,† W. A. Wilder, John A. Adams and J. B. Nivens.

Rocky Ridge—J. W. Wood,* J. R. Davis and J. H. Davis.

On motion, Petitionary Letters were called for when brethren W. V. Arnold and P. M. Fancher presented a petitionary letter from Six Mile Church, also a letter of dismission from the Mulberry Association; upon which the Church was received, the Moderator extending to the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

On motion, the former Moderator and Secretary were chosen to their

Note.—* Ordained ministers.

† Licentiates.

respective offices again, by acclamation.

An inquiry was made by Brother L. J. Carden as to what disposition the Association would make of Bethesda Baptist Church, which was dropped at the last session.

At the request of E. B. Teague, he was excused from voting on the following motion:

On motion, a committee of five consisting of Brethren Wm. Lucus, W. V. Arnold, Jesse Nivens, J. C. McElroy and Thomas M. Fancher, was appointed to ascertain the present standing of the Church, and report during the sitting of this body.

On motion, the order of business of the last session was adopted for the present session.

APPOINTED COMMITTEES.

On Devotion—N. Thomas from the Second District, and Wm. Lucus from the First District, with the Pastor and Deacons of Union Church.

On Documents—E. B. Teague, Geo. T. Lee and C. W. O'Hara.

On Sunday Schools—S. M. Robinson, N. Thomas, and I. U. Wilkes.

On Temperance—R. B. Hall, J. W. Wood and J. C. McElroy.

On Finance—T. M. Fancher and P. M. Fancher.

On Missions—Geo. T. Lee, E. B. Teague and J. W. Wood.

On motion, ordered that the Moderator appoint three Standing Committees: one on Missions, one on Sunday-schools, and one on Temperance, to report at our next session.

On motion, the order of business was suspended, to call for and return correspondence.

Brother S. J. Thompson was received, upon a verbal statement, from the Coosa River Association; Elders James Grimes and J. A. Wetherly, with minutes and letter from the Canaan; also, Elder J. L. West was received in the capacity of Editor and Proprietor of the *Alabama Baptist;* all of whom were welcomed among us, the Moderator extending to them the hand of fellowship.

RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Mulberry—Elders Geo. T Lee, I. U. Wilkes, and Brother W. V. Arnold.

To the Canaan—Elders E. B. Teague, J. W. Wood, I. U. Wilkes, and Brethren James D. Martin and H. W. Bowers.

To the Coosa River—Elder E. B. Teague and J. W. Dodson.

On motion,

Resolved, That any member of this Association when present at the sitting of any of our sister Associations or the State Convention, may present himself as a messenger from this Association.

On motion, ordered that a Committee of five be appointed to nominate delegates to the State Convention.

Elder J. L. West addressed the body, in a very pleasant manner, in the interest of our State paper.

The Committee on Devotion reported as follows:

J. L. West to preach Saturday night; E. B. Teague the Missionary Sermon, under appointment of last session, at 11 o'clock on Sunday; C. W. O'Hara at 2 o'clock; and I. U. Wilkes at night.

After prayer by E. B. Teague the Association adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

SUNDAY, September 11.

After Sunday-school exercises, Elder J. L. West, of the *Alabama Baptist*, delivered a very interesting and impressive lecture on Sunday-school work.

The remaining exercises of the day were conducted in the order prescribed by the Committee on Devotion.

After the preaching of the Missionary Sermon a collection was taken up, the amount of which will be found in the report of the Committee on Finance

MONDAY, September 12.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer was offered by James D. Martin.

The minutes of Saturday were read, roll called, and absentees dropped.

The Constitution was read, as amended and revised by the committee appointed at the last session, and adopted.

The Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum were read.

The Moderator announced the following committees as appointed by order of the Association, viz:

Committee to Nominate Delegates to the Convention—J. W. Dodson N. Thomas, R. W. Nolen, T. M. Fancher, and Jesse Nivens.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Missions—James D. Martin, S. M. Robinson, and Nathaniel Thomas.

On Sunday-schools—I. U. Wilkes, R. W. Nolen, W. V. Arnold.

On Temperance—Geo. T. Lee, R. W. Cobb, and H. W. Bowers.

The report of the Committee on Documents was received and adopted. (See Appendix A.)

The report of the Committee on Sunday-schools was read, and after some discussion by E. B. Teague, I. U. Wilkes, Geo. T. Lee, J. A. Wetherly and C. W. O'Hara, was adopted. (See Appendix B.)

The report of the Special Committee relating to Bethesda Church was read.

On motion, at the request of Brethren C. W. O'Hara, W W. Armstrong and N. Thomas, they were excused from voting, and any others who might have been connected with the Bethesda Church troubles.

The report was then unanimously adopted. (See Appendix C.)

The report of the Committee on Temperance was read and discussed by E. B. Teague, S. J. Thompson, Geo. T. Lee, C. W. O'Hara, J. W. Wood and J. C. McElroy; after which the report was adopted. (See Appendix D.)

The report of the Committee on Missions was read, and after discussion by E. B. Teague, Geo. T. Lee, I. U. Wilkes, C. W. O'Hara and J. A. Wetherly, was adopted. (See Appendix E.)

The report of the Committee on Finance was read, and after some correction, was adopted. (See Appendix F.)

The money sent for Missions and the amount collected on Sunday was ordered paid over to the Home Mission Board The amount sent up for Foreign Missions to be paid over to the Foreign Mission Board.

Liberty, Mt. Calvary and Columbiana petitioned for the next Association. Upon taking the vote it was decided that the next session should be held with Mt. Calvary Church.

On motion, the time of meeting was changed from the present time to Saturday before the second Sunday in October.

The Committee to nominate delegates to the State Convention reported the following names as delegates, viz: Elders E. B. Teague, I. U. Wilkes, Geo. T. Lee, C. W. O'Hara, and Brethren James D. Martin, W. G. Parker, H. C. Reynolds, Erasmus Burns, Thos. M. Fancher, and P. M. Fancher.

On motion,

Resolved, That the usual time for preaching, on Sunday night of our next session, be devoted to a Missionary Mass Meeting.

The Committee on Devotion reported that Geo. T. Lee would preach the Introductory Sermon at our next session—C. W. O'Hara alternate; I. U. Wilkes, the Missionary Sermon—E. B. Teague alternate.

Resolved, That we tender thanks to the Presbyterian brethren for the use of their house of worship; and to the brethren, sisters and community for their kind hospitality during the sitting of this body.

After singing a hymn, while the delegates extended to each other the parting hand, and prayer by Elder Geo. T. Lee, the Association adjourned.

C. W. O'HARA, *Secretary.* T. P. HOLCOMBE, *Moderator.*

(APPENDIX A.)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

The Committee on Documents would report: The Liberty Church has licensed J. D. Martin since the last session of this body; a young man of industry and promise. Quite a number of the Churches report considerable additions by baptism. There are a good many Sunday-schools, but not in all the Churches. We think contributions sent up small. The State Mission Board make the suggestion that the Association endeavor to raise in the course of the next year, for State Missions, $45,00; Home Mission,s $15.00; Foreign Missions, $15.00; Ministerial Education, $15.00; Mission to Colored People, $5.00; for Colportage in the State, $9.00. Total $104.00.

Respectfully, E. B. TEAGUE, *Chairman.*

(APPENDIX B.)

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Sunday School is one of the fixtures of the land. Its literature forms an important part of the religious literature of the age. It is a matter of gratulation that the abundance and cheapness of this class of literature places it within the easy reach of all classes of our people. We recommend the uniform use of "*Kind Words*," published at Macon, Georgia; believing as we do, that that paper gives Scriptural expositions of the inspired oracles.

We are fully satisfied that it is far better for our Churches to sustain denominational Sunday Schools, and we so recommend. The marked success of this department of Christian labor, and the many blessings which have resulted from it, furnish strong ground of encouragement to push the work forward.

What is more commendable, more profitable, than the study of the "Word of Life?" It is sadly true that the Bible is yet a sealed book to many of our people. And as it is only as we read and understand the Word of Truth, that it is a "light to our path, and a lamp to our feet," we urge the more strongly the adoption, *by practice*, of the motto, A Bible School in every Church, in every community, for the study of the word of His grace.

Respectfully submitted.

I. U. WILKES, *Chairman.*

(APPENDIX C.)

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

The Committee to whom was referred the matter relating to Bethesda Church, beg leave to report as follows: According to the teachings of the Constitution of this body, this Association can not take cognizance of that Church—she having dissolved and now being in a state of dissolution.

WM. LUCUS, *Chairman.*

(APPENDIX D.)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following report: We are much cheered at the great change which has taken place in reference to that great and momentous question. We would therefore suggest that all Baptists in our bounds be faithful in expelling the same in all honorable ways, until the evil is driven from among us. Yours, in Christian bonds.

R. B. HALL, *Chairman.*

(APPENDIX E.)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Committee report a condensed account of the results of the mission work under the Southern Baptist Convention:

BRAZIL.—Adopted in 1879. Church of 30 members at Santa Barbara and 12 out stations; Rev. W. B. Bagby, pastor.

MEXICO.—Rev. W. M. Flournoy appointed as missionary in place of J. Westrups, lately murdered by the Indians and Mexicans.

ITALY.—Geo. B. Taylor, assisted by eight native preachers. All of these have two or three preaching places and small churches. Five schools, with 150 pupils. Church members 175.

AFRICA.—Missionaries: Moses L. Stone, S. L. Milton, —— David and wife.

CHINA.—Dr. M. T. Yates and wife, assisted by a number of native teachers and preachers.

Statistics.—Shanghai—Two churches, 103 members; $258.22 contributions; two important out-stations. Shantung—Two main stations, Chefoo and Tungchow; missionaries, Rev. T. P. Crawford and wife, assisted by Misses Edmonia and Lottie Moon, Mrs. Holmes, and several native teachers and preachers. Canton—Statistics 1881—Three churches, 357 members; 52 baptized; $120 annual contributions; 9,766 tracts and Bibles distributed; 5 schools —average attendance 106; 6 missionaries, with 12 native assistants.

Do Foreign Missions prosper?

Answer—During the last ten years the Baptists increased in the United States at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. In the same time the membership of Foreign Missions increased at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum. In China, the most difficult of all missions except Italy, the rate has been 14 per cent.

On Home Missions we would say, that work under the Home Mission Board of S. B. Convention has been pressed with great energy for the several past years, by our esteemed Brother McIntosh, and been followed by good results, both in the States and among the Indians. This mission work demands our confidence, our prayers, and our moral and material support.

In regard to State Missions, we would say that that work has been enlarged from year to year, ever since the State Convention took it in hand. Men of ability, culture and piety have been put into the field. Good results have followed their labors, their salaries have been raised, and the Board feel greatly encouraged. Respectfully submitted.

GEO. T. LEE, *Chairman.*

(APPENDIX F.)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report:

Amount sent up for minutes	$25 95
Collected on Sunday for missions	11 85
Amounts sent up for Foreign Missions	9 05
Amounts sent up for Missions	2 00
Balance in treasury	1 50
Total	$50 35

T M. FANCHER,
P. M. FANCHER, } *Committee.*

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

To amount received from Committee on Finance		$50 35
By amount paid for minutes	$12 00	
" " " Secretary	10 00	
" " " to Home Mission Board	13 85	
" " " " Foreign " "	9 05	
Total paid out	$44 90	—$44 90
Balance in treasury		$ 5 45

C. W. O'HARA, *Sec'y and Treas'r.*

TABLE OF CHURCHES AND STATISTICS.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	Sabbath of Preaching.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	By Vouchers.	Under Watchcare.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.	Minute Fund.	Missions.	Foreign Missions.
1ST DISTRICT.															
Cahaba Valley	I. U. Wilkes	Six Mile	2	13	8	1	..	....	....	..	..	60	$2 00	.....	.....
Dogwood Grove	J. D. Mills	Montevallo	2	10	3	2	..	....	3	2	3	134	1 60	.....	.....
Montevallo	E. B. Teague	Montevallo	1	..	1	..	..	....	1	..	..	40	2 50	.....	.....
Mar's Hill	Geo. T. Lee	Helena	1	..	....	..	..	....	1	..	1	16	50	.....	.....
New Antioch	I. Walker	Montevallo	4	..	....	..	..	....	....	9	..	72	1 60	.....	.....
Six Mile †	I. U. Wilkes	Six Mile	1	4	2	..	..	....	....	1	1	50	2 00	.....	.....
Union	Geo T. Lee	Helena	2	2	....	..	..	....	3	..	..	51	2 00	.....	.....
2ND DISTRICT.															
Beaver Creek	Not Represented.														
Columbiana	E. B. Teague	Co'umbiana	2	2	5	..	..	....	1	..	1	20	2 00	.....	.....
Friendship	C. W. O'Hara	Columbiana	1	2	.	..	2	1	....	1	4	32	1 50	.....	$3 40
Hopwell	C. W. O'Hara	Shelby I. Works	4	4	1	..	..	....	1	..	..	26	1 50	.....	3 00
Mt Calvary	C. W. O'Hara	Columbiana	2	1	1	..	3	....	....	2	..	60	2 25	.....	2 65
Liberty	T. P. Holcombe	Columbiana	1	6	2	..	..	1	15	1	1	137	5 00	$2 00	.....
Rocky Ridge	J. W. Wood	Columbiana	4	3	9	..	..	....	2	..	..	30	1 50	.....	.....
				47	32	3	5	2	27	16	11	728	$25 95	$2 00	$9 05

† Note.—Six Mile was received by letter from the Mulberry Association.